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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 OES-03

ERDA-05 OIC-02 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, CE

SUBJ: SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL
SESSION (UNGASS): GSL POSITION AND OUTLOOK

REF: A) STATE 75525; B) STATE 112992; C) COLOMBO 1686;

D) COLOMBO 1685; E) COLOMBO 1902

1. SUMMARY: SRI LANKA'S PROBABLY APPROACH TO
7TH UNGASS AND TO EVOLVING INDUSTRIALIZED/DEVELOPING
NATION RELATIONSHIP WAS SET FORTH IN AMBASSADOR'S
MAY 26 CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE
(REFS C AND D). FOR STRONG POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
REASONS, SRI LANKA WILL CONTINUE ADHERE CLOSELY
TO G77 AND NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM). AT SAME
TIME GSL WILL ADVOCATE MODERATION AND PRAGMATISM
IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS AND QUALIFIED COOPERATION
WITH DEVELOPED WORLD. MAJOR FACTOR IS PRIME
MINISTER'S BALANCED FOREIGN POLICY AND INCREASING
VISIBILITY IN INTERNATIONAL SCENE, WHICH

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RELATES DIRECTLY TO HER KEEN ANTICIPATION OF
BEING HOST TO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO

IN AUGUST 1976. RE SPECIFIC ISSUES RAISED
IN REFS A AND B, GSL POSITIONS ARE AS YET
NOT CLEAR, AND WE HAVE HAD NO DETAILED RESPONSE
TO SECRETARY'S MAY ECONOMIC INITIATIVES.
THIS CABLE GIVES INFORMATION AVAILABLE SO FAR.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN MAY 26 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASADOR,
PRIME MINISTER TOLD HIM OF HER DESIRE FOR
MODERATE, CONSTRUCTIVE, COOPERATIVE
APPROACH TO 7TH UNGASS AND TO AUGUST 1976
NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO. SINCE THEN WE
HAVE CONVEYED SECRETARY'S MAY 15, 28, AND 29
ECONOMIC INITIATIVES TO SENIOR GSL OFFICIALS
(REF E). DURING MOST OF JUNE PRIME MINISTER
AND FINANCE MINISTER N.M. PERERA WERE AWAY.

3. CLEAREST ADDITIONAL PERSEPCTIVE WE HAVE
HAD ON GSL APPROACH TO 7TH UNGASS COMES FROM
GSL OFFICIAL SERVING ON INFORMAL COMMITTEE TO
PREPARE GSL POSITION FOR SPECIAL SESSION IN
SEPTEMDJR. HE REPORTS THAT SRI LANKA HOPES
TO SUPPORT MOVES FOR MODERATE, PRAGMATIC
NEGOTIATIONS ON SPECIFIC ECONOMIC ISSUES
AND TO HEAD OFF ANOTHER ROUND OF CONFRONTATIONAL
STYLE ASSAULT BY RADICAL LDCS ON WESTERN DCS .
HE NOTES GSL RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO COMMONWEALTH
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS CREATED AT KINGSTON AND
SAW MERIT IN UK PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S CALL
FOR PRAGMATIC COMMODITY NEGOTIATIONS. GSL
HOPES COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS CAN COME FORWARD AT
EARLY DATE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS SUITABLE FOR
SUPPORT BY LARGE NUMBER OF COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES
AT UNGA SPECIAL SESSION. PM BANDARAFIKE,
ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCE, HAS INSTRUCTED GSL
OFFICIALS PREPARING SRI LANKA'S POSITION FOR
UNGASS TO PLACE EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR CONCILIATORY
AND REALISTIC APPROACH TO ENERGY AND COMMODITY
PRICE PROBLEMS. PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES TO
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ILO ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GROUP OF 77 MEETING IN
GENEVA JUNE 10 OFFERED EVIDENCE OF HER INCLINATION
TOWARD PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS RATHER THAN
RHETORIC OF CONFRONTATION.

4. GSL THINKING AT THIS TIME REFLECTS FEAR
OF FURTHER JUMP IN OIL PRICES AND DIASPPPOINTMENT
IN POST-COMMODITY-BOOM PRICE PERFORMANCE OF SRI
LANKA'S MAJOR EXPORTS, TEA AND RUBBER. ON OIL
ISSUE, GSL OFFICIAL BELIEVES SYMPATHY FOR OPEC

HAS DECLINED SUBSTANTIALLY, AS SEEN IN RECENT DAKAR G77 MEETING. GSL FEARS THAT ANY INCREASES WILL HIT MSAS MUCH HARDER THAN DC CONSUMERS, A FACT GSL IS GRADUALLY CON- CLUDING OPEC HAS CHOSEN TO IGNORE. ALGERIA'S CONFRONTATION POLITICS ON OIL ISSUE ARE DEPRECATED PRIVATELY HERE. HOWEVER, GSL NEEDS TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH OIL PRODUCERS IN CONTEXT OF ITS ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT FOR LONG-TERM LOANS AND CREDITS AND IN VIEW OF EXPECTED NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT MEETING IN COLOMBO IN AUGUST 1976, A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF WHICH GSL HOPES SOME OIL PRODUCERS WILL PAY FOR. GSL HAS ALSO BEEN DIS- APPOINTED BY UNCTAD-FAO PERFORMANCE ON TEA AND RUBBER PRICE SUPPORT PROPOSALS. AS RESULT, GSL IS CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF TAKING INITIATIVE TO CONSULT WITH TEA PRODUCERS ON POSSIBLE COMMON APPROACH AT UNGASS. FEELING IS THAT CURRENT RELATIVELY BUOYANT TEA PRICES OFFER BETTER BARGAINING POSITION THAN RUBBER, EVEN THOUGH RUBBER MAY BE MORE SERIOUS LONG- TERM PROBLEM.

5. GSL'S UNGA SPECIAL SESSION INFORMAL WORKING TEAM AT THIS TIME IS COMPOSED OF TOP RANKING, RELATIVELY APOLITICAL CIVIL SERVANTS FROM MINISTRIES OF PLANNING AND OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PORTFOLIOS BOTH HELD BY PRIME MINISTER. OTHER MINISTRIES CONCERNED, SUCH AS TRADE AND PLANTATIONS, HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TAKE LEAD FROM WORKING GROUP, AN ARRANGE- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT WHICH MAY DILUTE IMPACT OF MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS STRONGLY ENTRENCHED IN THOSE MINISTRIES. EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMALLY TOUCHED ON IDEAS CONTAINED IN STATE 75525 AND 112992 WITH TWO MEMBERS OF GROUP, AND RESPONSE HAS BEEN HIGHLY SATISFACTORY. SECRETARY'S MAY INITIATIVES WILL DOUBTLESSLY BE WELL RECEIVED IN WORKING GROUP. LEFTIST ELEMENTS IN GOVT COALITION, ON OTHER HAND, WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO INSERT NEO-COLONIALIST AND CONFRONTATIONAL THEMES. WE BELIEVE PRIME MINISTER HERSEL WANTS TO MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION. AFTER GSL WORKING GROUP HAS HAD TIME TO REVIEW US PROPOSALS IN CONTEXT SRI LANKA'S OWN INTERESTS AND AFTER PM AND FINANCE MINISTER FOCUS ONCE MORE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH GSL OFFICIALS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN. VAN HOLLEN

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